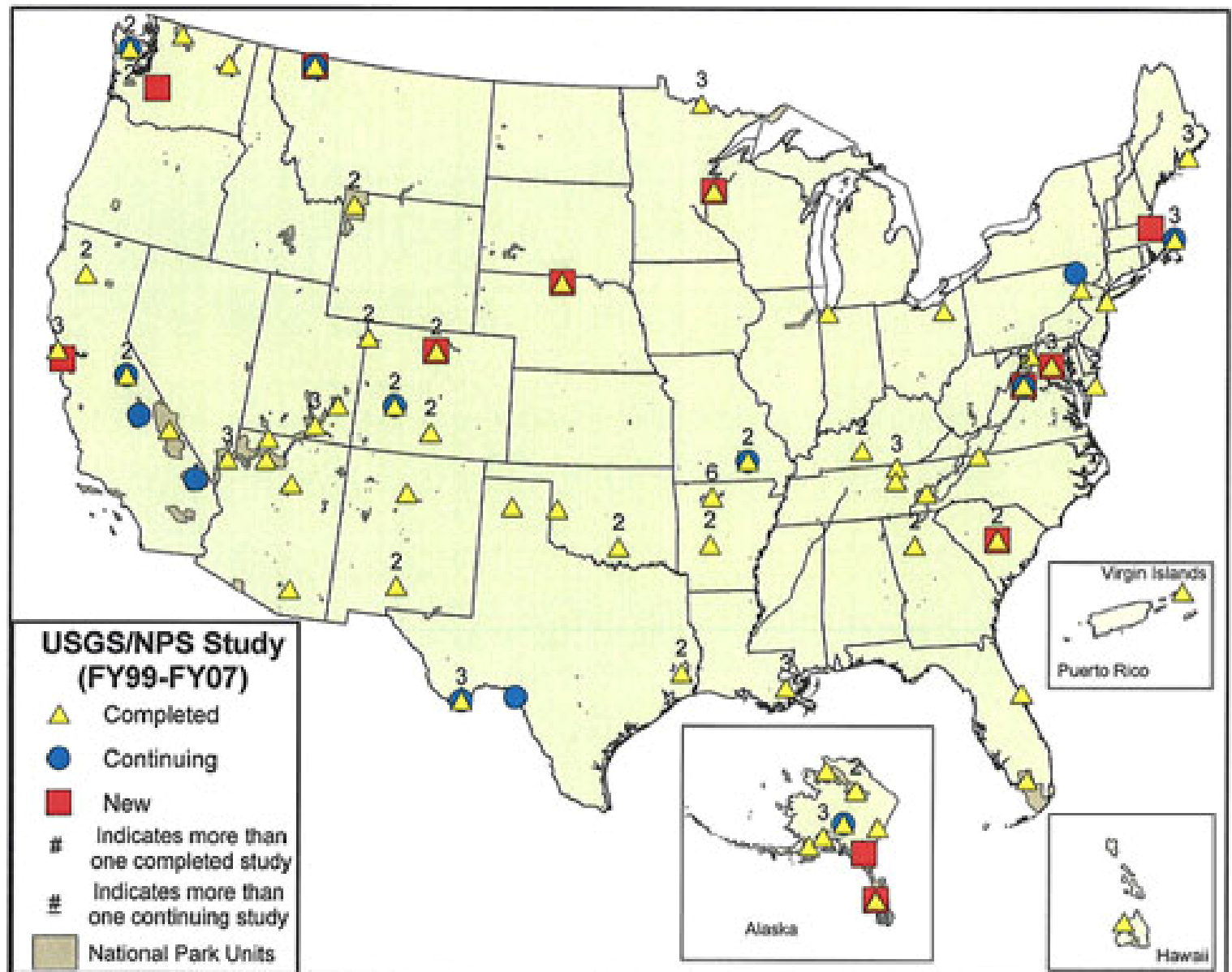


The USGS-National Park Service Water Quality Partnership Program

Mark Nilles, U.S. Geological Survey

Study locations



Program Components

- \$1.9M/year to support USGS-led investigations in National Park Service administered units
 - ~1/3 of funds turn over annually – three year funding for most proposals
 - ~40% of proposals that reach the national panel are funded
- Proposals must be developed collaboratively by the local USGS office and NPS unit and endorsed by both Office Directors
- Proposals are then evaluated by NPS and USGS at the regional and national level

Proposals considered annually by the national panel

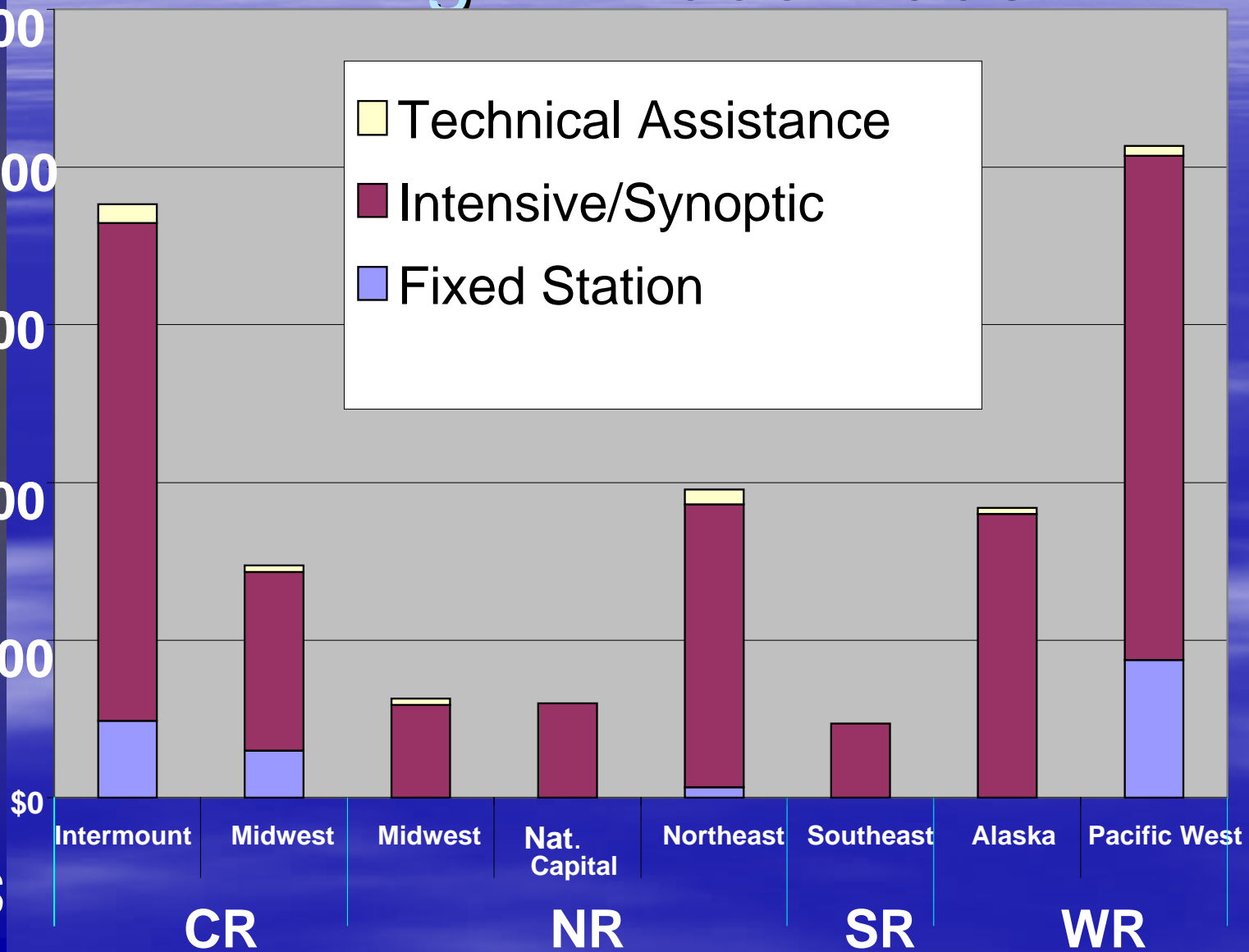
Region	Total	Intensive or Synoptic	Fixed Station	Technical Assist.
Alaska	3	1	1	1
Intermount.	5	3	1	1
Midwest	3	1	1	1
Nat. Capital	3	1	1	1
Northeast	3	1	1	1
Pacific West	5	3	1	1
Southeast	3	1	1	1
Total	25	11	7	7

Program Components (cont.)

- Objective & numerical ranking criteria
- USGS & NPS representatives on national evaluation panel
- Broad range of water-quality issues
Atmospheric deposition → sewage treatment
...& everything in-between

Funding by NPS and USGS Region 2005-2008

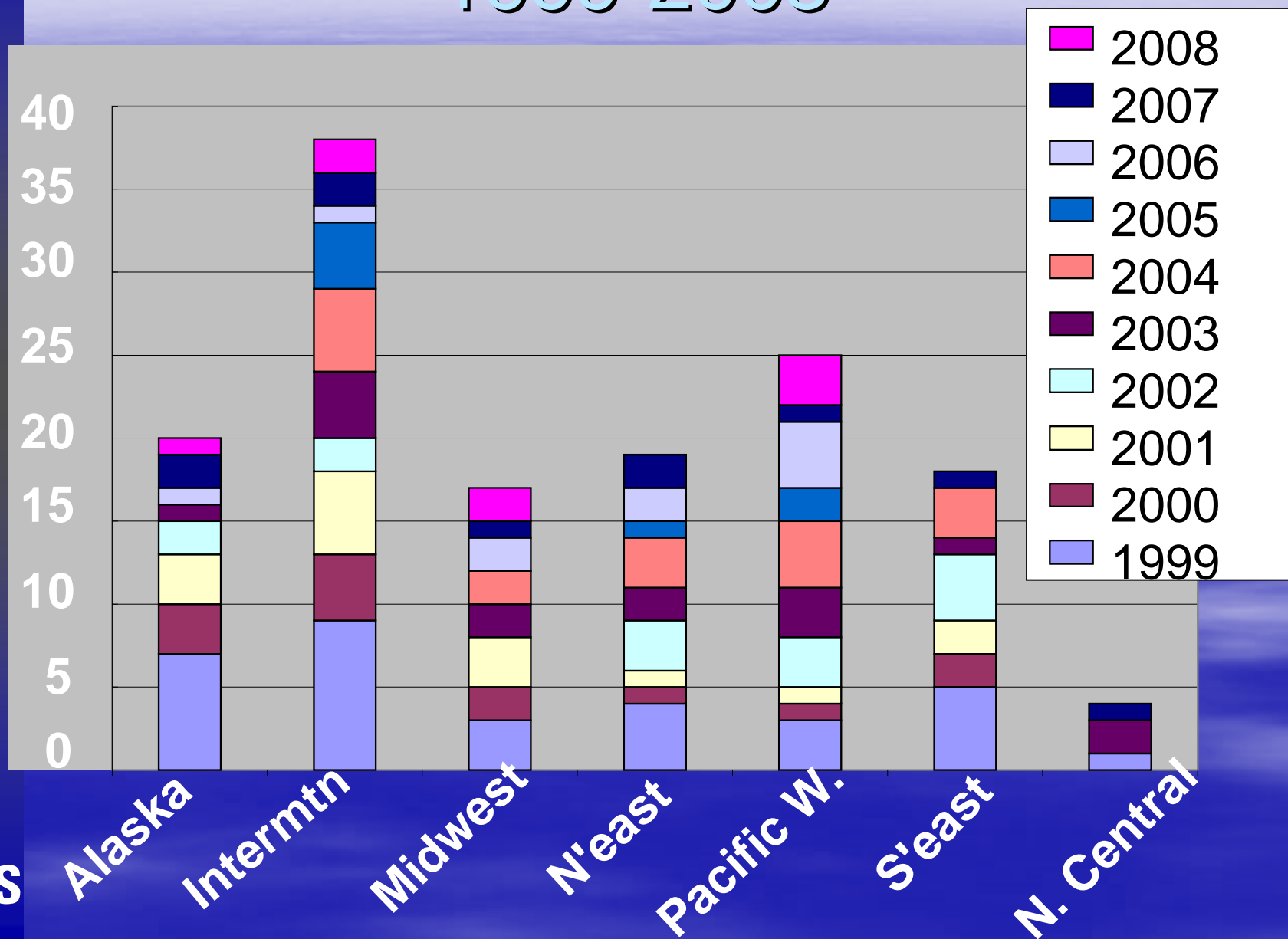
Funding in thousands of dollars



Projects selected by NPS region

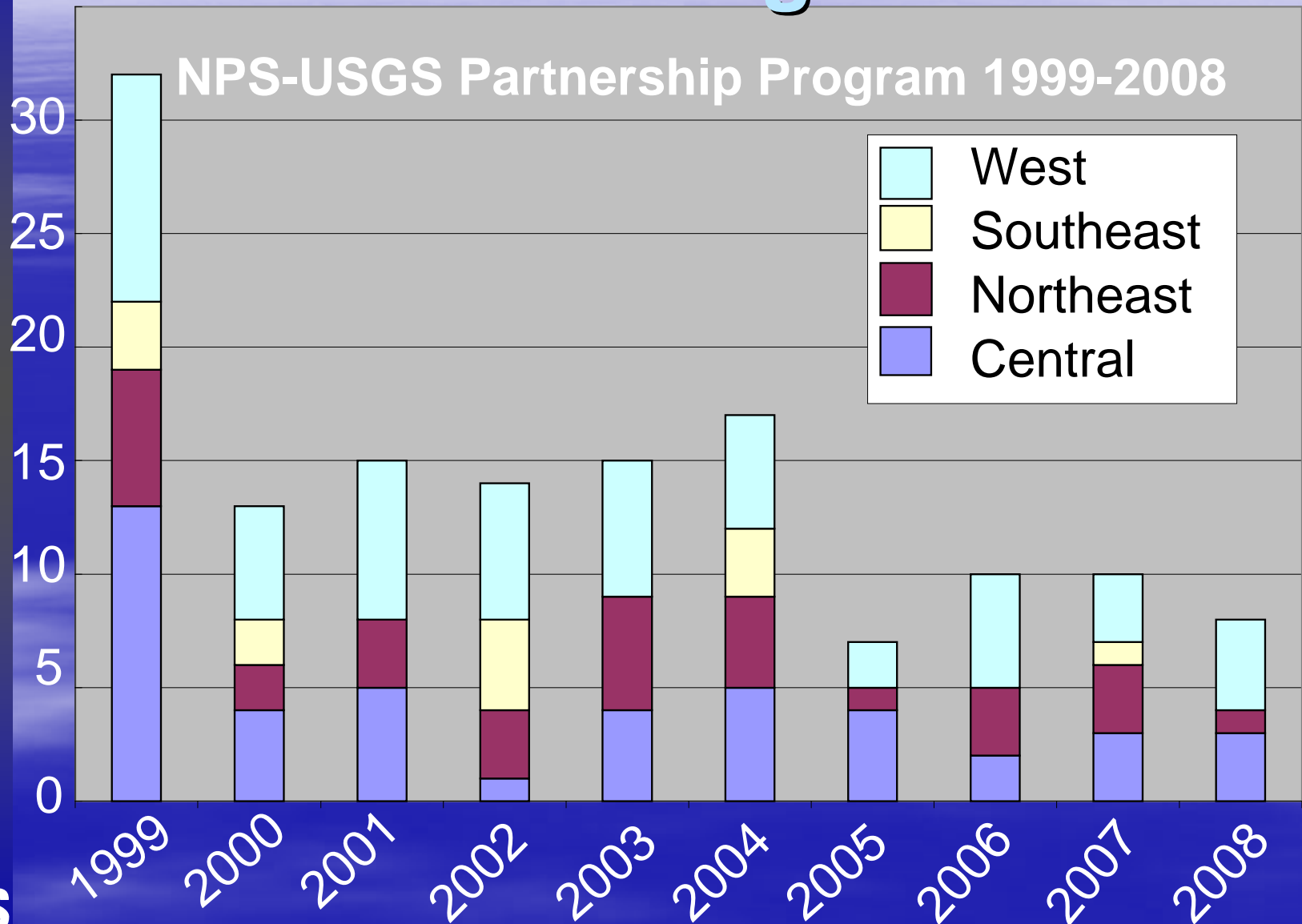
1999-2008

Number of Projects Funded



Proposals funded by year and USGS Region

Number of Projects Funded



Challenges....

– Funding

- No increase in funding (and real after-inflation declines) since program inception.

– Communication

- NPS regional vs. program national deadlines.

– Distribution

- Some regions & USGS offices have more expertise than others in developing highly ranked proposals.
- Meritocracy can lead to inequality.

For more information

- http://water.usgs.gov/nps_partnership/
- Mark Nilles – USGS Program Coordinator
 - manilles@usgs.gov
 - (303) 236-1878
- Barry Long – NPS Program Coordinator
 - Barry_Long@nps.gov
 - (970) 225-3519